

Memo

To: DEHS Forensic Laboratory
SPECIAL ATTENTION Chemistry Section
From: Chief Arson Investigator, DEFD
cc: SAC, ATF, Philadelphia
Date: 2/24/2012
Re: 363 East Devon Dr, Exton, Pa; ARSON
Case# 20111207001

On 07 Dec 2011 at 0304 hrs, the DEFD was dispatched to a building fire in the area of 363 East Devon Drive, Uwchlan Twp. Chief 99 was on location at 0312 and reported heavy fire showing from a building identified as storage building B-1. Building B-1 is one story measuring 20 feet by 50 feet. B-1 is constructed of concrete block with a wood truss roof covered with standard asphalt 3-tab shingles..

DEPD has just patrolled the area at 0259 hrs and reported nothing out of the ordinary.

Engine 99-1 was first in and went into service with 2 2 ½ "hose lines. The volume of fire was such that interior attack was not an option. Ladder 99 was next in and went into service with ladder pipe application. Engine 99-2 was next in and caught the hydrant at Hurley St and Campbell Ave. and supplied Engine 99-1. Engine 99-3 caught the hydrant at Hurley St and Pavlick Blvd. to supply Ladder 99. A second alarm was struck at 0318 for additional apparatus and manpower.

The fire was placed under control at 0400 hrs.

The investigation was started as soon as was deemed safe by Safety 99 and FM-103. The building was declared a complete loss. The damage was too extensive to determine if forcible entry had occurred. The building contained materials belonging to the DE Playhouse. The materials consisted of wooden sets, clothing and some latex paints. The building did not have working gas or electric service at the time of the fire.

Given the volume and intensity of fire initially reported by Chief 99 and the rate at which the fire load developed in the building, arson is suspected.

Enclosed is a sample of an unknown fluid from an unmarked plastic capped 32-oz bottle that was found near the front door. This item of evidence was collected at 0500 hrs on 07 Dec 2011 and is marked as specimen Q1.

The plastic bottle was sent to the state crime lab for latent fingerprint examination along with several footprints and tire prints.

The DEHS Laboratory is requested to make a preliminary identification of the unknown liquid (Q1) so a list of persons of interest can be developed.